

Amendments to the Claims

1.-24. (CANCELLED)

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of providing internet access to a network device through a first access provider, the method comprising:

in an access server of the first access provider, generating a logon query for the network device;

transmitting the logon query from the access server to the network device;

in the access server, receiving a logon response from the network device to gain the internet access from the first access provider through the access server wherein the logon response includes a prepaid account code;

transferring the prepaid account code from the access server to a central database system;

in the central database system, processing the prepaid account code to determine if the prepaid account code is known in a local database system associated with the first access provider;

if the prepaid account code is known in the local database system, providing the internet access to the network device through the first access provider;

if the prepaid account code is not known in the local database system, identifying a ~~foreign~~ second database system of a second access provider based on the prepaid account code and transferring the prepaid account code to the ~~foreign~~ second database system;

in the ~~foreign~~ second database system, processing the prepaid account code to determine if the prepaid account code is known in the ~~foreign~~ second database system; and

if the prepaid account code is known in the ~~foreign~~ second database system, providing the internet access to the network device through the access server of the first access provider.

26. (CANCELED)

27. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 25 further comprising if the network device is not allowed to access the internet, transferring a decline message to the access server.

28. (CANCELED)

29. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 25 wherein the prepaid account code is linked to a prepaid account and wherein the prepaid account code is displayed on a prepaid account card and wherein the second access provider provides the prepaid account card to a user and wherein the user utilizes the network device and the prepaid account card to access the internet.

30. (CANCELED)

31. (CANCELED)

32. (CANCELED)

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for providing internet access to a network device through a first access provider, the system comprising:

an access server of the first access provider configured generate a logon query for the network device and to transmit the logon query from the access server to the network device, receive a logon response from the network device to gain the internet access from the first access provider through the access server wherein the logon response includes a prepaid account code, and transfer the prepaid account code from the access server to a central database;

the central database system configured to process the prepaid account code to determine if the prepaid account code is known in a local database system associated with the first access provider, identify a foreign second database system of a second access provider based on the prepaid account code if the prepaid account code is not known in the local database system and transfer the prepaid account code to the foreign second database system;

the foreign second database system configured to process the prepaid account code to determine if the prepaid account code is known in the foreign second database system; and

the access server of the first access provider configured to provide internet access to the network device if the prepaid account code is known in the local database system associated with the first access provider or known in the foreign second database system associated with the second access provider.

34. (CANCELED)

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 33 wherein the central database system is further configured to transfer a decline message to the access server if the network device is not allowed to access the internet through the first access provider.

36. (CANCELED)

37. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 33 wherein the prepaid account code is linked to a prepaid account and wherein the prepaid account code is displayed on a prepaid account card and wherein the second access provider provides the prepaid account card to a user and wherein the user utilizes the network device and the prepaid account card to access the internet.

38. (CANCELED)

39. (CANCELED)

40. (CANCELED)